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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [NATO](#) [KNNP](#) [KACT](#) [LT](#) [XG](#)  
SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO U.S. NUCLEAR  
POSTURE REVIEW

REF: HERSMAN/LOOK LETTER DATED JUNE 12

Classified By: Ambassador Ivo H. Daalder for reasons 1.4(B)&(D).

1.(C/NF) On July 8, Mission received from the Lithuanian Mission comments with regard to the U.S. Nuclear Posture review. According to Lithuanian Ambassador Linkevicius's cover letter, this paper "reiterates and further elaborates the views expressed by the Lithuanian Minister of National Defence, Mrs. Rasa Juknevičienė, during the Defence Ministerial on June 11, 2009."

12. (C/NF) The text of the Lithuanian comments is reproduced below. (Note: The "Restricted" appears to be an internal Lithuanian marking and not a reference to the "NATO Restricted" classification.)

RESTRICTED

Lithuania's Observations with Regard to the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review

-- Lithuania fully acknowledges the transparency of the United States on the ongoing nuclear posture review, and appreciates the U.S. willingness to consult with Allies on this essential issue. The opportunity to provide Lithuania's observations on this review is also very much appreciated.

-- NATO's nuclear deterrence remains the ultimate guarantee of security, especially for smaller Allies.

-- Being a subject to NATO's policy of the "Three no", and adhering fully to its principles, Lithuania can participate only in the consultation part of NATO's nuclear policy. At the same time, Lithuania's security benefits greatly from the U.S. "extended deterrence" guarantees in general, and NATO's nuclear posture in particular.

-- Lithuania continues to support arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts of the international community. However, despite these efforts, certain countries seek to acquire nuclear weapons, and others carry out modernization programs of their existing nuclear arsenals. Given this evolving security environment, it is essential for NATO to preserve a credible nuclear deterrent.

-- Unknown numbers, types and locations (including their possible presence in Kaliningrad region) of Russia's tactical

nuclear weapons continue to be of particular concern to Lithuania's security. Moreover, Russia's reliance on nuclear weapons in its military doctrine has increased over the past decade. Lithuania believes that the U.S. nuclear posture review should take into account the implications of Russia's nuclear posture for the Euroatlantic security.

-- In Lithuania's view, the continued presence of the U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe is essential for the credibility of the Alliance's nuclear posture. This presence is a crucial element of the transatlantic link, providing a powerful mutual commitment to deterrence and defence on both sides of the Atlantic.

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End text.

(Note: The "--" were bullets in the original text.)  
DAALDER